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Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services

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Extensions of country programmes

Summary

The present note contains information on the extensions of UNFPA country programmes. First-time extensions of country programmes up to one year are approved by the Executive Director, and presented to the Executive Board for information. All other requests for extensions of country programmes are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the first one-year extensions of the country programmes for the Comoros, the Republic of the Congo and Mexico, as presented in table 1, and may wish to approve the second one-year extensions of the country programmes for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia, as presented in table 2.

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Table 1
Extensions of country programmes approved by the Executive Director

Country	*Original programme period*	*Period approved for extension*	*Reason for extension*
Comoros	2015-2018	2019	The current United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2015-2019 is aligned with the national framework: Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy, while the UNFPA country programme was developed for 2015-2018. In order to facilitate alignment with the national priorities and to ensure a coordinated and United Nations collective support to the implementation of the framework, UNFPA and the Government of the Comoros agreed to extend the current CPD for one year.
Congo	2014-2018	2019	The United Nations country team (UNCT) agreed with the Government of the Republic of the Congo to extend the current UNDAF (2014-2018) by one year to align the next programme cycle with the new national development plan currently under development, aimed at integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Mexico	2014-2018	2019	The current Government administration in Mexico ends in November 2018, and in March 2019, the Government in transition is expected to launch the National Development Plan, 2020-2025. Therefore, the Government of Mexico, in consultation with UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA, has agreed to a one-year extension of their respective country programmes in order to facilitate harmonization with the current UNDAF (2014-2019) and with the priorities identified in the new national development plan.

Table 2
Country programme extensions for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	*Original programme period*	*Period proposed for extension*	*Reason for extension*		
			In-country development	*United Nations harmonization*	*Implementation or other issues*
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2013-2017 2018 (first extension)	2019 (second extension)	The political situation remains fragile and unpredictable, with the elections planned for 23 December 2018. Humanitarian crises in the Kasai region and in Tanganyika province as well as in North Kivu and South Kivu have increased the vulnerability of the populations there due to significant loss of access to basic services and major human rights violations. Over 22.5 million people, including more than 5 million women of reproductive age and 1 million pregnant women, are expected to be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2018 and 2019.	The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the UNCT agreed to extend the current UNDAF for one year to ensure that the next UNDAF is aligned with the National Strategic Development Plan, 2018-2022.	During the extension period, UNFPA will continue to focus on the priorities and results identified within the fourth country programme cycle.
Liberia	2013-2017 2018 (first extension)	2019 (second extension)	The United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) successfully completed its mandate on 30 March 2018. Programme delivery was significantly affected by the presidential and parliamentary elections, with a new administration taking office in January 2018. The new Government indicated that by mid-2018, a new national development blueprint would be ready.	The Government of Liberia agreed with UNCT to extend the current UNDAF for one year to align with the national planning cycle and allow for an UNDAF process that considers options for Delivering as One. This extension enables UNFPA to align its programme with a new UNDAF and national priorities of the new administration.	The current country programme will continue to support the Government in the following areas: (1) maternal and newborn health, including family planning; (2) empowering adolescent and youth, especially adolescent girls, to access sexual and reproductive health services; (3) advancing gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, exercising their reproductive rights, with specific focus on the most marginalized and disadvantaged populations; (4) and strengthening national development plans through stronger population data systems and better use of demographic intelligence.